

## Habs tell Kovalev to take a break

pg 10



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009

metronews.ca

## Katy Perry denies dating Benji

pg 18



## Charges laid after Fall River rifle incident, threats

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**CRIME** A Windsor Junction man has been charged with pointing a rifle at a 15-year-old boy in Fall River while threatening the teen's dad.

At 5 p.m. Monday, a man knocked on the door of a Devonport Avenue home. When a teenager answered, the man allegedly pointed a rifle at him, and threatened his father. The father wasn't home at the time.

"He's quite traumatized," RCMP Cpl. Joe Taplin said of the teen.

He said the suspect and the teen's father knew each other, and the alleged threat wasn't random.

"It was probably over some ongoing issue, I think it's fair to say."

The man then left the house and was arrested at his own home about an hour later, police said.

Arthur Frank Parsons, 56, appeared briefly at Dartmouth provincial court yesterday morning, charged with assault with a weapon, uttering threats, and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.



Anthony Tebay works on a large hourglass vase at NovaScotian Crystal yesterday. NovaScotian Crystal is getting a \$300,000 loan guarantee to restructure its operations through the province's Industrial Expansion Fund. Premier Rodney MacDonald announced an increase of \$175 million to the fund for this fiscal year.

# Funds keep flowing

## Tories promise \$175M more for infrastructure

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**The province unveiled another infrastructure announcement in this new year yesterday, pledging \$175 million for loans to companies through its Industrial Expansion Fund.**

The Progressive Conservatives have said they would rely heavily on infrastructure spending to help drag the province out of hard economic times.

"We are making more money available to support businesses that are ready to expand, invest in new technology and to improve productivity and competitiveness," said Premier Rodney MacDonald in a release. "Most importantly,

**"We are making more money available to support businesses that are ready to expand, invest in new technology and to improve productivity."** Premier MacDonald

we're helping these companies maintain current jobs and create new ones."

It was also announced that four companies will receive \$4 million in funding.

Halifax's NovaScotian Crystal got \$300,000 to help it restructure its operations.

Halifax's LED Roadway Lighting got a \$1-million interest-bearing loan to help sell energy efficient roadway lights internationally.

Enfield-based Ledwidge

Lumber got a \$1.2-million bridge loan for land being acquired by the Crown. Apple Valley Foods of Kentville got a \$1.5-million loan guarantee to "support the company with necessary resources to ensure future growth."

In total, the province is topping up its Industrial Expansion Fund, which loans out money to businesses for development, by \$175 million.

The repayment and interest varies by the individual loan.

In 2007-2008 the Industrial Expansion Fund authorized nearly \$60 million for 26 companies.

The NDP quickly came out against the plan, saying the money would be better spent through Nova Scotia Business Inc., an arms-length agency, because it has tighter standards.

Last week NDP Leader Darrell Dexter announced his government would create a 10 per cent manufacturing tax credit. Dexter said the approximately \$25-million cost of that credit would likely come out of the Industrial Expansion Fund, which he said government sometimes uses to fund projects that otherwise wouldn't meet criteria.

## Happily ever after, minus the happy

RACHEL BOOMER  
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**MARRIAGE** Talk about a short honeymoon — a Nova Scotia woman got a rude awakening just a week after her 2001 wedding, when she found out the man she'd just married already had a wife.

Now, Nova Scotia Supreme Court has ruled Tara Naomi Guptill can keep most of their joint assets because Romiel Wilfred, the man she fell for during a St. Lucia vacation, married her in bad faith.

The sad tale was spelled out in a written court decision, released yesterday.

The couple wed in Kentville Sept. 29, 2001, then went back to St. Lucia to start a clothing business.

The week after, their housekeeper asked Guptill if she knew her husband had been married before.

Wilfred first told Guptill he thought his first wife, Jasmine Daniel, had divorced him years before. Later, he said she'd died.

He never produced divorce papers or a death certificate, and said he had never been married in the application for their marriage licence.

The bride's friend suggested he had hidden from Daniel one night at a bar when they were out with Guptill.

Wilfred denied that, and said he believed he'd signed divorce papers and was free to marry Guptill.

Justice Gregory Warner didn't buy his story, and declared the marriage void.

"A commitment to marry is a commitment to enter a relationship based on trust," Warner said in his decision.

"The husband's evidence is not corroborated in any respect."

## Riding the Recession

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? For the next six weeks, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

- Travel  
'Recession Chic' is the new hedonism, pg 12
- This week  
Food — Local meals for a steal  
Style — Looking on the bright side of fashion during New York Fashion Week



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131 King's St.

PORT HAWKSURRY  
The Rolling Phones  
Shediac Plaza  
Sobeys, 622 Reeves St.

PORTER'S LAKE  
DownEast Communications  
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Saulnierville Mall

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**National Arts Centre adds Halifax's MacGillivray to board**

From the World Trade and Convention Centre to the National Arts Centre: Halifax resident Fred MacGillivray was appointed yesterday to the NAC's board of trustees. MacGillivray recently stepped down after 15 years as head of Trade Centre Limited, a provincial Crown corporation. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Local



## New phys-ed programs

The province offered up a new, 250-page textbook to Grade 10 physical education students in Chester Basin yesterday. It'll teach them about exercise, personal fitness, and why lifelong exercise and good nutrition is important. The Education Department is now developing a yoga class as a Grade 11 physical education credit.

METRO HALIFAX

# Council backs report

Province, municipality need to work together: Chief

**KIM HARD MACNEIL**  
for Metro Halifax

**Halifax Regional Council approved the recommendations of the Board of Police Commissioners in response to the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence.**

"There's a lot in this report that HRM can't do alone," police Chief Frank Beazley said during the presentation of the action plan. "There are things you and I can't do when we leave here today. We need partnership."

That partnership is a commitment between the provincial and municipal governments to implement some of the recommendations in the action plan.

Justice Minister Cecil Clarke spoke to council briefly about the importance of community co-operation.

He said the government will soon announce a new strategy to combat drug crime, and a pilot drug court to relieve some of the strain on the justice system caused by the number of drug infractions passing through the courts.

Clarke said the province stepped up liquor inspec-



Police Chief Frank Beazley spoke to the council about forming a partnership between provincial and municipal governments to help implement recommendations in the action plan.

tions for bars and clubs as a result of the Mayor's Roundtable on Violence, and will create legislation concerning training for bouncers and security guards.

Halifax Regional Police are working with representatives from the local universities to lower student drinking rates and find better late-night transportation away from downtown after bars close, Beazley

said.

While late-night buses may be an attractive solution, Coun. Sue Uteck told council, it's not an option for Metro Transit to start the service for at least five years.

Adding more taxi stands in safe locations downtown is on the list of recommendations.

The recommendations also include establishing a Public Safety Office made

up of 32 police officers, 14 civilians and volunteers. The office will include existing services administered through Community Relations and Crime Prevention. The estimated \$3.2 million budget will come from existing resources.

The province will fund the position of public safety officer, one of 250 new police positions to be created by 2011.



Researcher Aaron Newman tests out motion-capture technology that allows him to tell how the brain reacts to movement.

## Animation's not just for cartoons anymore

**KIM HARD MACNEIL**  
for Metro Halifax

**TECHNOLOGY** Motion capture technology is stepping out of the film studio and into the laboratory. A Dalhousie psychologist is using the technology to study the affects of sign language on the brain.

Dr. Aaron Newman and his team used animated videos to strip away the personal effects people have on sign language, like facial expressions, to reveal only the most basic movements.

Study participants watch the animated videos while an EEG monitors their brain activity.

"We see blips of activity coming from different areas of the brain, and that helps us better understand the processes by which people understand these gestures," Newman said.

A grant allowed Newman

to buy the motion capture equipment he needed for the study from Fredericton company Measurand, but his assistants were psychology students, not computer programmers.

The Centre for the Arts and Technology filled the void by partnering with the project. Twenty students from the centre pre-

**"We see blips of activity coming from different areas of the brain, and that helps us better understand the processes by which people understand these gestures."**

Dr. Aaron Newman

the same time lent a helping hand to our local education community," centre executive director Martin Theiss said.

Newman plans to test the animated videos on both sign language users and those who don't know sign language to compare their brain activity.

pared more than 80 video clips from Newman's motion capture footage as part of a work experience project.

"The project exposed students to a career option they might not have considered before and at

## Soon you might never miss a bus again

**PAUL MCLEOD**  
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**TRANSIT** Imagine a world where you call Metro Transit's GoTime number to find out when your bus comes — and it actually comes at that time.

That could be a reality as early as late August. Metro Transit has fitted its buses with GPS systems, and is currently testing a system that would tell you exactly when your bus will arrive.

Right now, when you call GoTime, you are told only the scheduled time — the time your bus would arrive in a fantasy world with no traffic jams or weather. The new system will locate the bus and calculate the time it takes to get to you, so you'll know if it's running

**"They're doing online trip testing to try to ensure everything is accurate before we turn it on for the public."**

Lori Patterson, Metro Transit spokeswoman early or late.

"They're doing online trip testing to try to ensure everything is accurate before we turn it on for the public, because (it not working properly) would be the worst thing," Metro Transit spokeswoman Lori Patterson said.

"Say (there's) one route that's switching over to another route (with) 20-minute layovers every third trip — we want to ensure that the system is working properly before we put it out there. Otherwise it would result in more confusion."

Metro Transit plans to

implement the system around the end of August. It's been in the works for two years, but has fallen slightly behind schedule. Part of that was due to the recent GoTime transformation that overhauled the bus-stop phone numbers and voice system.

"It's been a major project," Patterson said. "(When it's done) we'll have the most up-to-date and real information."

Another coming change is increased security. Half of Metro Transit's buses are scheduled to have functioning video cameras installed by March.

### News in brief

**BODY** Police didn't know yesterday whether a man in his 50s found dead in a Charlotte Lane apartment was murdered. At 2:50 p.m., police were called to an apartment at 60 Charlotte Lane. It wasn't clear whether the man's death was suspicious. An autopsy is scheduled to determine how he died. **METRO HALIFAX**

**metronews.ca**

#### WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Video** Sovereignists claim victory after Ottawa cancels Plains of Abraham re-enactment at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)  
**Video** Harper confident that General Motors will stay in Canada at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)



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# Donate to protect Port Joli

PAUL MCLEOD  
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**They've been fundraising for years, but now conservationists are in a fight to raise \$50,000 in just four weeks to protect a key piece of Nova Scotia's shoreline.**

The Nature Conservancy of Canada has raised almost half a million dollars towards its goal of buying undeveloped land at Port Joli, about 170 kilometres down the shore from Halifax. The 341 acres of land are key because they would link two existing protected areas.

But the deadline to buy the land is fast approaching and the NCC is still \$50,000 short. They rely on donations from a public that is becoming increasingly disinterested in conservation, said one leading naturalist.

"Things are getting worse and they're getting worse rapidly. The kind of work that the Nature Conservancy of Canada does is difficult and the only thing that holds us back is our ability to raise money, particularly from the private sector," said NCC national



PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

An aerial view of Port Joli, about 170 kilometres down the southern shore from Halifax. The Nature Conservancy of Canada hopes to buy 341 acres to join two existing protected areas into one group.

chair Bill Freedman.

But some things are in their favour. Thanks to provincial and federal plans to match funding, every \$22 donated privately is matched with \$100 of government money. So every \$22 donation becomes a \$122 donation.

Freedman said the NCC is just scratching the surface of the work that needs

to be done. He hopes they can help reverse the trend of Canadians becoming disenchanted with nature and teach the value of conservation.

"You could say the same thing about great works of art. They're beautiful, they're important and that's enough of a reason to conserve them," he said.

Port Joli is an important

area for wintering waterfowl and is also home to minks, otters, white-tailed deer and sometimes moose. Information on donating can be found at [natureconservancy.ca](http://natureconservancy.ca), or at (902) 480-3610.

ShareYourViews

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## Bad news for debt-ridden

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If your credit card is still smoking from its Christmas workout, don't talk to Garth Turner.

The financial adviser and one-time MP says debt is the "albattross" that will weigh most of us down during these tough economic times.

And he believes Canada hasn't seen the worst of the job losses yet.

"2009 is going to be a stinker. It's just going to get worse," says Turner, who was in town this week offering a financial-advice



Garth Turner

seminar in Halifax.

"Almost nobody has lived through a time like this."

The real-estate bubble has burst, and values will stay depressed for years to come, he argues. In Atlantic Canada, where prices didn't skyrocket like in Vancouver, he figures home values will drop a modest 15 per cent. Think that sounds bad? He expects a 30 per cent plunge in larger centres.

That's bad news if you just bought an expensive house with five per cent down. It's also bad news if you're about to retire and your house is worth over 40 per cent of your net worth. If that's the case, Turner's got one piece of advice for you: Sell it right now.

"Don't wait till the spring or summer or fall,

because things are only going to get worse."

Depressed yet? Don't be. Turner says if you've got cash, now is a great time to invest in things like banks, energy companies, oil companies, because their stocks will rise again. Gold would also be a good safeguard, since he figures U.S. megaspending will depress the greenback.

If you own a small house, fear not — he figures small, energy-efficient, "green" homes will be hot tickets in the new market. And if you've always been a saver, Turner says you'll do well in this new economy.

"This is a giant reset button. We're going back almost a generation. People are going to start saving ... This is going to scare the crap out of people."

## Little interest in old Truro buildings

**REVITALIZATION** There is little interest in redeveloping Truro's old buildings. The town had issued a request for proposals in January for five vacant or soon-to-be vacant buildings.

The invitation for development proposals closed Monday morning with only two proposals received for Willow

Street Elementary School. That leaves four properties (two parcels of land on the waterfront currently used as public works facilities, the nearby former jail and Alice Street Elementary School) with no proposals. "People may be holding off a little bit based on the economic climate," Mayor Bill Mills suggested, adding that the town may have to cast to a larger audience with its advertising.

**"People may be holding off a little bit based on the economic climate."**

Mayor Bill Mills

## News in brief

**CRASH** A woman died at about 6 a.m. yesterday after an accident on Highway 103 near Hubbards. Nadine Ann Rogers, 38, of Marriott's Cove, died in a head-on collision between a pickup truck and an SUV; the other driver was taken to hospital. RCMP closed off the highway for several hours afterward.

**POLICE CHASE** Police are looking for a driver who led them on an early morning chase yesterday. Officers spotted a suspicious vehicle downtown and tried to stop it near Northwest Arm Drive, but the driver fled, then abandoned the car. No one was hurt.

**HEIST** Halifax Regional Police are looking for a man who

robbed the CD Plus on Barrington Street with a handgun Monday. At 7:25 p.m., the thief stuck his gun in the clerk's face, demanded cash, then fled west on Sackville Street. The suspect is a slim black man, about 160 to 165 pounds, between 20 and 25 years old, five-foot-10 or five-foot-11. He was wearing a blue jacket. **METRO HALIFAX**

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# Canada



## RIM settles with U.S. regulator

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion's top executives settled U.S. regulator claims that they illegally backdated millions of stock options over an eight-year period, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission said yesterday. Officials with the Canadian company, including co-CEO James Balsillie, left, did not admit to or deny the SEC's allegations. The company agreed to pay \$1.43 million in fines.

REUTERS

## B.C. sees second shooting death in as many days

KRISTEN THOMPSON  
Metro Canada



**ATTACK** The gun violence in B.C.'s Lower Mainland shows no signs of abating with another daylight shooting leaving one man dead and another injured in South Vancouver.

Nazreen Dean said her teenage brothers were watching TV in their home yesterday afternoon when two men banged on the door looking for someone named Azim.

"We are convinced we don't know those guys," Dean said, adding her brother told the men no one by that name lived there.

It's unclear at what point her 19-year-old brother, Aleem Mohammed, was shot and injured or how one of the two suspects wound up dead outside.

It's believed Dean's other brother, Amir Mohammed, was taken away in handcuffs. The second suspect ran away.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson joined police at the scene and said he's "horrified" by the violence.

# Thank you, Canada: Obama

U.S. president shows appreciation for military's efforts in Afghanistan

## Obama's Visit

**A dramatic improvement in the Afghan war effort could convince Canadians to remain engaged in the troubled country past 2011, when troops are due to return home, U.S. President Barack Obama suggests.**

Obama said he doesn't plan to ask Prime Minister Stephen Harper to extend the country's commitment past the withdrawal date approved by Parliament last year when the two leaders meet here tomorrow.

But he said conditions could change dramatically

leading up the scheduled withdrawal.

"We've got until 2011, according to the Canadian legislature, and I think it's important for the Canadian legislature and the people of Canada to get a sense that what they're doing is productive," Obama said in an interview yesterday with CBC News.

Obama said he plans to tap Harper's support for the "comprehensive strategy" he is drawing up for the international effort in Afghanistan that focuses on development and diplomacy. He said he hopes it will be "one that ultimately the people of Canada can support as well as the

**"Obviously, here as well, there are a lot of concerns about a conflict that has lasted quite a long time now and actually appears to be deteriorating."**

Barack Obama

people of the United States.

"Obviously, here as well, there are a lot of concerns about a conflict that has lasted quite a long time now and actually appears to be deteriorating at this point," he said.

In an interview with CBC News anchor Peter Mansbridge, Obama expressed his "heartfelt thanks" to the Canadian families who have shouldered the burden of Canada's "extraordi-

nary" contribution in the war-torn country.

The U.S. yesterday confirmed the deployment of an additional 17,000 troops to Afghanistan — the first instalment in a 30,000 troop surge.

Obama said he thinks that Afghanistan is "winnable," but conceded that the United States took its "eye off the ball" as a result of the prolonged involvement in Iraq.

"I am absolutely con-

vinced that you cannot solve the problem of Afghanistan, the Taliban, the spread of extremism in that region solely through military means," Obama said. "We're going to have to use diplomacy, we're going to have to use development."

Afghanistan will be one of the key issues on the agenda when Harper and Obama meet for the first time tomorrow in Ottawa.

The other priorities are the economy, climate change, energy security and "international security challenges," said Kory Teneycke, Harper's director of communications.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## News in brief

**QUEBEC CITY** The National Battlefields Commission has cancelled a re-enactment of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham set for this summer due to security concerns that the mock battle could turn into a modern-day conflict, after some sovereigntists have threatened violence.

**PETS** As the economy deteriorates, people who work with animals say they're getting more calls from pet owners who can no longer afford to keep their animals. "When times are tough, animals are the first thing to go," says the Humane Society's Ruby Richards. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Ottawa Security beefed up for big visit



A man walks past a security barrier and an RCMP car yesterday on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Security has been beefed up in advance of U.S. President Barack Obama's visit tomorrow, his first foreign trip since taking over the White House last month.

CHRIS WATTE/REUTERS

**M.P. HALIFAX WEST**  
**geoff regan**

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## Media fighting for 'right to be wrong'

**CHALLENGE** The Supreme Court of Canada, faced with an appeal that could establish a new defence against defamation lawsuits, has challenged media organizations to justify why journalists should be given a greater "right to be wrong."

Several media organizations argued yesterday that the court should endorse a defence that would shield reporters from some lawsuits. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

**British lawyer sentenced in Berlusconi bribery case**

British lawyer David Mills has been sentenced to more than four years in prison for corruption over accepting a \$600,000 US bribe from Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in 1997. **REUTERS**

7

# World

## Khmer Rouge torturer tried for prison deaths

**The chief Khmer Rouge torturer went on trial for crimes against humanity yesterday, the first senior Pol Pot cadre to be tried by the "Killing Fields" court three decades after the deaths of 1.7 million Cambodians.**

Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch and ex-commandant of the notorious S-21 prison, did not address the court, but sat impassively as lawyers haggled over procedural matters.

Hundreds of victims, including saffron-robed Buddhist monks who were persecuted during the 1975-79 Khmer Rouge era, packed the public gallery, reacting



Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch

Vann Nath, 63, one of a handful of survivors from S-21 where at least 14,000 "enemies of the revolution" were tortured and killed.

This week's hearings will lay the groundwork for a full-blown trial in March, when Duch and survivors are expected to testify.

with anger and relief at the sight of 66-year-old Duch in the dock.

"This is the day we have waited for for 30 years," said

Duch, now a born-again Christian, has expressed remorse before facing the joint Cambodian-UN tribunal, set up to prosecute those responsible for one of the darkest chapters of the 20th century.

Duch also faces charges of war crimes, torture and homicide while chief of S-21, where victims were forced to confess to crimes and then shot or beaten to death in the "Killing Fields" outside the capital.

Only 12 survived, according to the U.S.-funded Documentation Center of Cambodia, which has researched the Khmer Rouge era. **REUTERS**

### Brazil Underwear Day



Brazilian models dance at a bus station during the third edition of "Brazilian Underwear Day" in Brasilia yesterday. The day is inspired by a similar event which has taken place at Times Square in New York City since 2003.

## Protesters wreak havoc on island

**GUADELOUPE** Protesters ransacked shops and burned cars in Guadeloupe overnight as a strike over the cost of living escalated, and one senior local official said the Caribbean island was "on the verge of revolt."

Guadeloupe, a French overseas region, has been brought to a standstill for nearly a month by strikes and demonstrations over high prices for food and other necessities.

The situation has degenerated over the past two days as protesters have set up road blocks and police have made dozens of arrests.

The government in Paris has refused to budge on a demand for a 200-euro (\$316 Cnd) monthly rise for low-paid workers. **REUTERS**

## Obama signs stimulus into law

**WASHINGTON** U.S. President Barack Obama signed a \$787-billion US economic stimulus bill into law yesterday as global markets plunged on fears that the recession would deepen. Obama was expected to lay out a strategy today to stem home foreclosures and address the U.S. housing crisis. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**CONNECTICUT** Police shot and killed a 200-pound chimpanzee that had once starred in television commercials after the ape nearly killed its owner's friend and attacked a police cruiser on Monday.

**RACISM** The return of the United States to UN talks on racism could prove pivotal to salvaging

an international conference plagued by charges of Israel-bashing, human rights activists said yesterday.

**SPAIN** A Spanish soldier and his Russian girlfriend were arrested yesterday for posting videos on the Internet calling for Islamist attacks in Spain, police said. **REUTERS**

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Equalization for uncertain times

## NoBorders

**Deborah Coyne**

dmr.coyne@rogers.com



How many times must Premier Danny Williams verbally explode about “equalization” before the Harper government abandons its hyper-partisan approach to serious matters of national interest? Equalization is a

very serious matter, which, together with other federal-provincial transfers for health, education and social services, plays a critical role in promoting equality of opportunity and comparable levels of services across Canada. This commitment defines a great nation.

Regrettably we can no longer measure how well the myriad of federal contributions to the provinces, including equalization, helps to ensure comparable public services across Canada. No amount of tinkering with the arcane equalization formula will fix this

fundamental problem, especially since too many other federal programs incorporate confusing equalizing elements that exacerbate inequities among Canadians. The best example is Employment Insurance, which is structured to benefit the unemployed who live in weaker areas of the country.

There is urgent need to bring coherence, consistency and accountability to the jumble of federal contributions to provinces, especially with Ontario qualifying for equalization. Unfortunately the Harper government has no interest in pro-

moting comparable public services — the recent manifestation of this being the elimination of all federal funds for child care operations. Harper’s seemingly real agenda is to downsize the national government, download responsibilities and fiscal room, permanently eliminating Ottawa’s ability to pursue national standards and objectives in most public services and programs.

With every month in power, Harper draws closer to achieving his goal.

Harper’s signature step — the GST cut — reducing na-

tional revenue by \$60 billion over five years, was a bad step in the best of times, universally condemned by economists, and now cripples the national government’s ability to respond in this, the worst of times. Yet Harper refuses to reconsider.

Opposition parties must directly challenge this agenda. Explain to Canadians why we must stop weakening the fiscal position of the federal government — taking care not to turn national politics into a complex and excruciatingly boring accounting problem. Propose the establishment of a per-

manent non-partisan advisory commission to make the system of federal contributions to provinces more transparent and subject to public scrutiny. And ensure that, through the commission, decisions relating to federal-provincial fiscal relations are based on intelligent debate and reflect longer-term national objectives to build stronger ties among Canadians rather than weakening them.

Deborah Coyne ran as a Liberal candidate in the 2006 federal election and is a public policy consultant who runs [canadianswithoutborders.blogspot.com](http://canadianswithoutborders.blogspot.com)

## Word on the street: Do you think U.S. President Barack Obama will usher in a new era of Canada/U.S. relations?

**Leslie Philmore**  
age 36, Halifax

A: It depends on the Canadian government’s response to him. I think his election makes Canadians think they can elect someone like Michael Ignatieff.

**Gail Morrissey**  
age 46, Fall River

A: Hopefully. There are a lot of trade issues to settle, and I think someone new will work out the bugs.

**Debbie Barnett**  
age 47, Middle Sackville

A: I think it’s long overdue. I think the whole world has pinned their hopes on this man ... I hope he’s up for it.

**Matthew Clarke**  
age 23, Toronto

A: I think so. I hope so. He’s a voice for change in the States, so hopefully we’re on the boat with that, too.

**Stacey Ireland**  
age 20, Toronto

A: I have a feeling that if the stimulus package doesn’t go over well, then there might be some tension.

**Scott Book**  
age 33, Edmonton

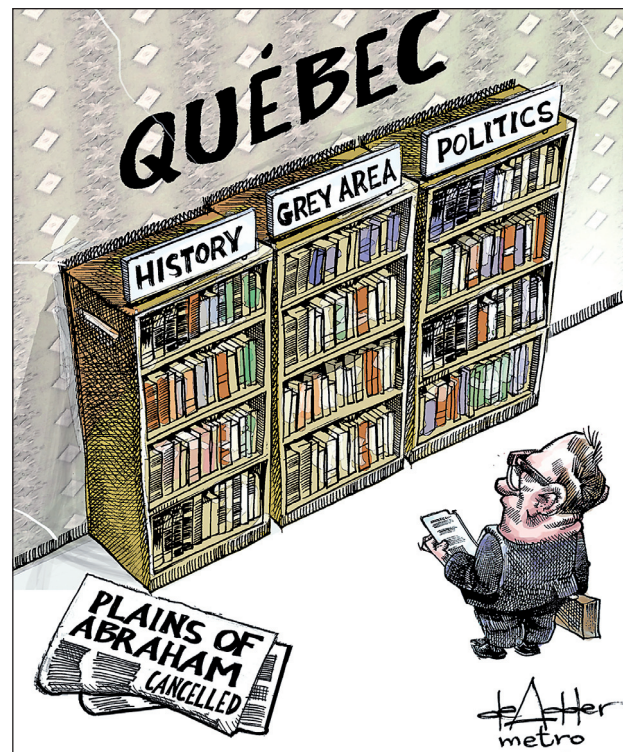
A: I think he’ll improve relations just because he’s well liked. People will listen to what he says.



It’s your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender’s full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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**Trump casino unit files for bankruptcy**

Trump Entertainment Resorts Inc., the casino operator of the Trump Taj Mahal, Trump Plaza and Trump Marina that's named for Donald Trump, filed for bankruptcy protection yesterday as the recession and declining gambling revenues took its toll. **REUTERS**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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	1.27¢	

OIL	
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**The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ**

**Anti-oilsands activists launch ad campaign:**  
The Mikisew Cree, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations and environmental group ForestEthics have placed a full-page advertisement in USA Today to highlight "the human and environmental damage wrought by Canada's Tar Sands," just two days before U.S. President Barack Obama's first trip to Canada.

**Gas driller confident:**  
Stealth Ventures, a coal bed methane driller in the Springhill area, is confident its old mine workings will deliver marketable quantities of gas, as the company waits for market conditions to improve.

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## Obama visit spells oilsands trouble

**Canada's oilsands industry, battered by collapsing oil prices, also faces the prospect of ballooning costs as the United States and Canada prepare to discuss energy security and efforts to fight global warming.**

When U.S. President Barack Obama visits Ottawa Thursday, energy will be a key topic in his talks with Canada Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who often touts Canada as an emerging energy superpower due to its massive oilsands resources.

Oilsands producers worry that Obama's plan for a cap-and-trade system to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses could make their operations too costly with buying and selling permits — especially at current depressed oil prices. Harper also has voiced support for a cap-and-trade system.

Environmental groups

### Obama's Visit

#### Viewpoints

- The White House has so far been mum on what official stance the president will take on oilsands.
- The Council for Foreign Relations said the issue will test "how the administration balances energy security and climate change."
- The Canadian Association of Petroleum Markets said "the real key for us is to set a framework."

call the oilsands "dirty oil" and say its development is hazardous to communities and the environment. Some in the Obama camp appeared to agree with that message during the election, and producers fret about the push for standards that reward low carbon emissions. **REUTERS**

### Starbucks Luxury, instantly



Starbucks Corp. CEO Howard Schultz explains the Starbucks VIA Ready Brew product, an instant coffee that sells for less than \$1 per cup, during a news conference in New York yesterday. The move from the Seattle company, which grew rapidly by selling pricy lattes and other "affordable luxuries," is another example of how management has changed course since its business succumbed to overexpansion and the recession set in.

### Bank stocks pounded globally

**MARKETS** Bank stocks around the world endured a pitiless pounding yesterday amid fears the global financial system remains in jeopardy despite government stimulus plans.

The carnage began in Asia due to a record high cost of borrowing dollars, and spread to Europe as Moody's Investors Services said it may lower ratings of banks with holdings in Eastern Europe, before soured investor moods led to a dump of U.S. banks.

In Canada, the financial sub-index on the Toronto Stock Exchange slid 6.42 per cent, led in losses by Manulife and Royal Bank.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

### Business in brief

**AUTOS** Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he is confident General Motors will maintain an industry link in Canada, despite a possibility the automaker may move out of Canada as

it restructures its operations in Canada and the U.S.

**RADIO** Sirius XM Radio won a reprieve from its \$1 billion US in debt deadlines yesterday after Liberty Media Corp. agreed

to lend \$530 million to help the satellite radio provider fend off bankruptcy. In return, Liberty stands to take a controlling 40 per cent equity stake in the company. **REUTERS**

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# Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA



**"I knew we weren't taking Tic Tacs ... I didn't think they were steroids"**

Alex Rodriguez at a Yankees news conference yesterday, discussing how his cousin introduced him to the performance-enhancing drug "boli" in 2001, saying it was an over-the-counter substance in the Dominican Republic. Rodriguez blamed his use of it on being young and naive.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Told to take a break

**When the Montreal Canadiens embark on a two-game road trip beginning today, one player who will not be with the club is star forward Alex Kovalev.**

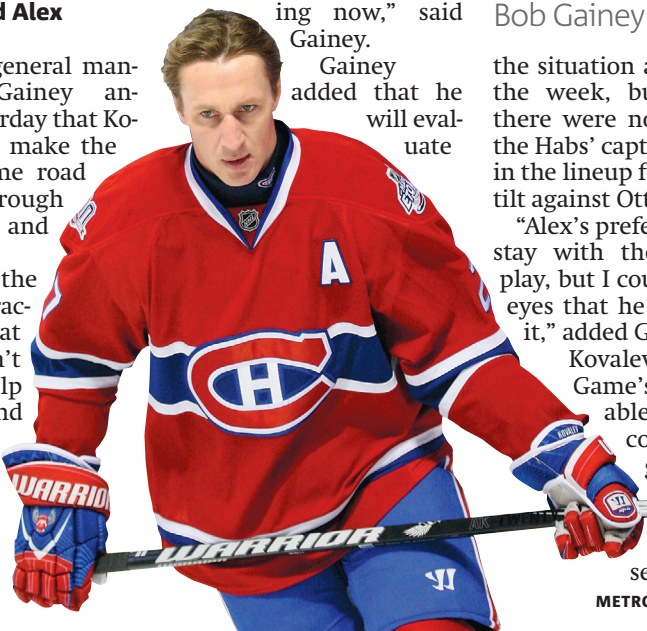
Canadiens general manager Bob Gainey announced yesterday that Kovalev will not make the Habs' two-game road swing through Washington and Pittsburgh.

Gainey told the club after a practice session that Kovalev wasn't going to help the team and told him to take a few

Kovalev will miss at least two games.

days away, citing the Russian veteran's apparent lack of energy and emotion.

"The team doesn't need him the way he's playing now," said Gainey.



Gainey added that he will evaluate

**"The team doesn't need him the way he's playing now."**

Bob Gainey

the situation at the end of the week, but said that there were no guarantees the Habs' captain would be in the lineup for Saturday's tilt against Ottawa.

"Alex's preference was to stay with the team and play, but I could see in his eyes that he agreed with it," added Gainey.

Kovalev, the All-Star Game's most valuable player, has compiled 13 goals and 39 points in 57 games thus far this season.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### Sports in brief

**MLB** The Atlanta Braves tried to close a deal with Ken Griffey Jr. on Tuesday, hoping the aging slugger who ranks fifth on baseball's career homer list

can bolster an outfield that produced the fewest long balls in the majors last season. Griffey had narrowed his search for a new home to

Seattle, where he starred from 1989-99, and the Braves, a team his father played for in the 1980s and long on Junior's wish list. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

### NBA Raptors introduce duo



New Raptors Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks are introduced to the Toronto media yesterday. Both will make their Raptors debut tonight against the Cleveland Cavaliers.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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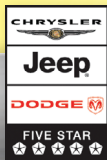
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**Mooseheads' MacAskill up for scholastic award**

Halifax Mooseheads blue-liner Ben MacAskill is his team's nominee for the Marcel-Robert Trophy, awarded to the QMJHL's scholastic player of the year. Each team's nominee earns a \$400 bursary. The five finalists will earn an additional \$400.

METRO HALIFAX

sports **11**

# Fighting his way back

Fairview fighter Roger Hollett looks to get his career back on track

MATTHEW WUEST  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Sixteen months ago, Roger Hollett looked indestructible in the cage. The Fairview mixed martial arts fighter won the first seven fights of his career with a 97.8-second average time of victory, and appeared on the cusp of a UFC deal.

Since then, things haven't gone so well. He ripped apart his knee in November 2007 and has now lost two of his past three fights entering Friday night's Maximum Fighting championship event near Edmonton.

He's sporting an 8-2 record and looking to resurrect his once dominating image against UFC veteran David Heath (9-4) in an important light-heavyweight showdown.

"I'm just trying to get back to where I was then," Hollett said. "It's an uphill battle, but I'm a lot closer now."

Hollett and Heath are both coming off losses to Emanuel Newton. Hollett, who suffered a five-round unanimous decision setback on Dec. 5, thought he was close to his November 2007 form before the fight, but now realizes he wasn't ready.

"I had a pretty (crappy) performance last time and that's not how I fight, that's not how I represent myself," said Hollett. "Right after that, I gave my head a shake. I knew I didn't train right, and I've trained extra hard so it doesn't happen again."



Roger Hollett, seen here in a November 2007 fight, is looking to get his mixed martial arts career back on track as he tries to bounce back from a knee injury.

Hollett said he "couldn't pull the trigger" against Newton, but said he has "easily corrected" the mistakes he made. He didn't waste any time booking the fight with

Heath.

"I want to get back in there," Hollett said. "I want to prove to myself I can get back to where I was."

Heath, 32, has fought

five times on the UFC circuit, winning his first two and then losing his last three. His last UFC bout was this time last year and he's fought twice since.

"He likes to punch and shoot, I like to keep it up on the feet," Hollett said. "He's been to the big shows and he won't be nervous coming in. Who knows what will happen."

## Rainmen quick to add league's top scorer

MATTHEW WUEST  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

### A.J. Millien knew his first visit to Halifax wouldn't be his last.

"I fell in love with Halifax when I first got here," says Millien, who played for the Augusta Groove at the Halifax Rainmen's Holiday Classic pre-season tournament. "I told myself, for some reason, I'm gonna come back, to visit or to play."

Maybe it was the fact that he dominated the Rainmen for a ridiculous average of 38.5 points and 12.5 rebounds in two games in December.

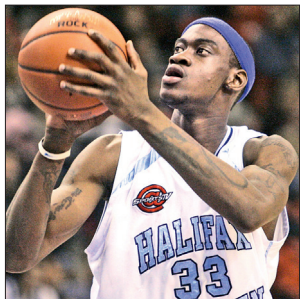
Maybe it was a premonition.

Either way, when the Groove released him last Thursday, he was quick to sign with the Rainmen a day later.

"When (the Groove) released me to Halifax, I didn't argue," he recalls. "I said, 'Fine.' I packed my bags and left."

The details of how the Premier Basketball League's leading scorer was released vary depending on the source.

Millien, a six-foot-nine forward, says his paycheques from the Groove bounced, even though he'd previously agreed on a monthly salary of \$2,800



A.J. Millien has signed with the Halifax Rainmen.

US with owner Gary Perry. Perry, meanwhile, told metronews.ca on Friday that his team was going in a "different direction." He wanted to "slow the tempo down" and Millien "wasn't a good fit." He said it wasn't because of

payroll issues or Millien's attitude.

But Perry told the Augusta Chronicle that Millien "wanted more touches" and was "messaging with" team chemistry.

Millien calls Perry's conflicting comments "all lies."

"He's going in a different direction ... financially, because he can't afford me," Millien says.

"He's not a very good owner. He hadn't paid none of the players. He gave out bounced cheques. That's the new direction he's talking about."

Millien, whose initials stand for Antoine Jr. and

whose nickname is Slim, was averaging 30.9 points and 12.4 rebounds per game when he signed with Halifax. The Rainmen desperately need his presence down low, and he scored 12 points in his debut on Sunday despite barely knowing the offence.

He calls the crowd of 3,682 at Sunday's game the biggest home crowd he has ever seen, and he's hoping for more when the Vermont Frost Heaves visit on Friday at 7 p.m.

"This is a better situation," he says. "Good people, good fans good community, good environment. I love it already."

### Derek Gaudet is trying out for the Vancouver Whitecaps.

The 19-year-old from Bayside, released from a developmental contract with Major League Soccer's Toronto FC last month, will participate in training camp with the United Soccer Leagues First Division club for the next two weeks.

"It's a good opportunity to compete at a high level," Gaudet said. "They're a professional club, very well run."

Gaudet, a midfielder, spent last season with Toronto FC, making his MLS debut in September. The club decided not to exercise the option on his contract. Gaudet isn't sure why.

"That's a good question," he said.

"They cut down a lot of roster spots, got rid of their entire reserve list, and cut down their developmental players to like two."

Gaudet, who finished seventh in voting for the Canadian Soccer Association's male under-20 player of the year, is a member of the national under-20 team that is attempting to qualify for the 2009 FIFA under-20 World Cup in Egypt.

Gaudet will travel to McCoy, Trinidad and Tobago, for the CONCACAF under-20 championship starting March 6. The event sends four teams to the World Cup.

### SCOREBOARD

QMJHL					
	W	L	OT	P	
x-Moncton	41	10	6	88	
x-Cape Breton	39	16	2	80	
Saint John	28	25	4	60	
Bathurst	20	26	12	52	
P.E.I.	20	28	9	49	
HALIFAX	16	35	6	38	

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS  
 Drummondville 3 Victoriaville 2  
 Quebec 8 Chicoutimi 2  
 Shawinigan 4 Acadie-Bathurst 2

TODAY'S GAMES  
 Montreal at Cape Breton  
 Moncton at Lewiston  
 Baie-Comeau at Rimouski

### NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS  
 Buffalo 4 Toronto 1  
 Boston 5 Carolina 1  
 Chicago 5 Tampa Bay 3  
 Florida 4 New Jersey 0  
 Ottawa at Colorado N  
 Vancouver at Calgary N  
 Edmonton at San Jose N

TONIGHT'S GAMES  
 N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers  
 St. Louis at Columbus  
 Montreal at Washington  
 Nashville at Detroit  
 Los Angeles at Anaheim

Trafalgar Tours has extended the booking period for its Buy One, Get One Free airfare deal with British Airways to March 31. The promotion covers travel from a variety of Canadian cities to many European gateways; see [trafalgartours.ca](http://trafalgartours.ca) for details. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Travel



## Dublin guide

If you're thinking of heading to Dublin for St. Patrick's Day, check out [visitdublin.com](http://visitdublin.com) for a rundown of hotel deals, activities, maps and iWalks, free podcast audio guides to the city. You'll also find a link to the Dublin Pass, a savings package that covers free entry to 27 top attractions, free transport from Dublin Airport to the city and more. The site also boasts a handy countdown-to-St.-Patrick's-Day-2009 clock — and we're at 26 days now, so get planning. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

## Exploring Mexico's myriad landscapes

ERICK TAPIA  
Metro World News



**High-profile beach resorts may be the first thing that comes to mind when Canadian holidaymakers think about Mexico. But that's a very narrow picture of a country that in fact boasts an astonishing variety of destinations.**

Mexico is home to multiple ecosystems and an alluring geography that includes rainforests, deserts, beaches, magical old towns, forests, cliffs and spectacular vistas. As for its cultural wealth, a mosaic of cultures left behind monuments, spiritual traditions and rituals that spark the imagination. In fact the country has so much to offer that the choice can be bewildering. Here are some of Mexico's most exciting destinations:

**Huatulco:** A coastal paradise on the Pacific Ocean in the state of Oaxaca, Huatulco is the perfect spot for diving and snorkelling. The coastline has nine protected bays and 36 beaches, all part of the Bahías de Huatulco National Park. Main tourist centres include Tangolunda Bay and Santa Cruz Bay; the latter has spectacular coral reefs teeming with marine life.

**Tepoztlan:** About two hours away from Mexico City, Tepoztlan is a place full of mystery and tradition. During the spring equinox, thousands of people visit the mountain of Cerro del Tepozteco because they believe it will charge them with energy. A highlight is the remains of a pre-Hispanic temple at the summit; [tepoz.com.mx](http://tepoz.com.mx).

### On the web

• [visitmexico.com](http://visitmexico.com)

**Teotihuacan:** The place where men became gods, this is one of the most important archaeological zones in Mexico and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The highlights of this metropolis — thought to have been built between the first and seventh centuries AD — are the Temple of Quetzalcoatl and the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon, vast monuments flanking the city's central avenue. The site is 40 kilometres northeast of Mexico City.

**Barrancas del Cobre:** A national park located in the northwestern state of Chihuahua, Barrancas del Cobre or Copper Canyon is an



Tangolunda Bay in Huatulco is part of a coastal paradise that includes nine protected bays and 36 beaches.

enormous net of canyons four times the size of the Grand Canyon. It also has one of Mexico's most impressive arrays of flora and fauna. The best way to explore this natural jewel is by train on the Chihuahua-Pacifico railroad or CHEPE, [chepe.com.mx](http://chepe.com.mx), which offers spectacular views of rivers, cactus forests, pine woodland and narrow gorges from above and be-

low. Stop off and enjoy trips downstream, horse riding, rock climbing, guided nature treks and visits to the reclusive Tarahumara Indians, [barrancasdelcobreweb.com](http://barrancasdelcobreweb.com).

**Valle de Bravo:** About 150 kilometres southwest of Mexico City, on the hills rising from the shores of beautiful Lake Avandaro, this pretty little town is a

magnet for tourists, many of whom are drawn by the Sanctuary for the Monarch Butterfly. Every winter, millions of Monarchs journey from North America to the local forest. Valle de Bravo is also home to the Velo de Novia (Bride's Veil) waterfall and the Natural Reserve of Monte Blanco; [valledebravo.com.mx](http://valledebravo.com.mx).

**Real de Catorce:** Real de Catorce is a beautiful, tranquil village high in the Sierra de Catorce mountains in the state of Zacatecas. Silence and pure air are its main attributes. Founded in 1779, this once booming silver-mining town was later abandoned and many original buildings still stand, which is why it's a popular backdrop for Hollywood movies.

It's also a spiritual place, with pilgrims visiting every year for various festivals. Its tourist infrastructure is improving, but accommodation is limited. There are no banks, and only one hotel and restaurant accepts credit cards; [vivarealdecatorce.com](http://vivarealdecatorce.com).

## The travel industry's new buzz phrase — 'recession chic'

**RECESSION** Hedonism is out in the travel business and "recession chic" is in, according to experts at a recent travel show in New York where customers were looking for bargains to brighten the gloom.

"People are being more value conscious, but just as important, they're being more conscious of their values, and what that means is that they're looking for experiences that speak to their heart," said Daniel Levine, a trend spotter at the Avant-Guide Institute

### Riding the Recession

who analyzes social trends.

Levine says as Americans see their savings dwindle and the economy crumbling around them, they are focusing on what is most important — friends, family, health or the environment — and taking that into account in planning vacations.

"It's not about hedonism

any more," Levine said at the New York Times Travel Show in Manhattan.

"Destinations that are just offering expensive pampering are going to be hurting," he told Reuters. "The ones that are offering experiences that speak to 'recession chic' values are going to do well."

He pointed to a program set up by Ritz-Carlton hotels called Give Back Getaways, which gives guests at its luxury hotels an opportunity to spend half a day volunteering in the

community where they are visiting.

Lydia Dean founded a company called GoPhilanthropic two years ago to design custom-tailored, high-end vacations that incorporate support for social and conservation projects in places such as Vietnam, India and Central America.

Jeff Duford, sales manager for G.A.P. Adventures which offers "responsible and sustainable" adventure travel in more than 100 countries, said there had been steady growth in the

**"They will give up that Starbucks coffee every day as opposed to giving up that trip."**

Jeff Duford

market for five years.

He said the kind of traveler who visits a developing country with G.A.P. was one who considered such travel a central part of their lifestyle, and was determined to go even in hard economic times.

"They will give up that Starbucks coffee every day as opposed to giving up that trip."

One company seeking to ease the pain at a time of rising unemployment is Intrepid, an adventure travel firm that has come up with a special offer called Laid Off, Take Off, a 15 per cent discount for the newly unemployed. The company's web site urges people to take advantage of a bad situation, saying: "When the going gets tough, the tough get travelling." **REUTERS**

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## Australian bushfire appeal

G.A.P Adventures has launched an appeal to support Australian communities recently devastated by bushfires. Donations made through G.A.P's Planeterra Foundation will be matched dollar for dollar and go to the Australian Red Cross Society; visit planeterra.org. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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# A paranormal pilgrimage in Transylvania

The **TravelJunkie**

**Julia Dimon**

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Those intrigued by things that go bump in the night can't help but take notice of Romania's most folkloric region. The very word Transylvania conjures up spooky gothic castles and blood-sucking aristocrats, but there's a lesser-known local attraction to add to your goose bump list.

The Hoia-Baciu Forest (HBF), located a few kilometres outside of the city of Cluj Napoca, is rumoured to be a hot bed of unexplained supernatural activity.

Dubbed the Bermuda Triangle of Transylvania, the forest first gained international attention in 1968, when biologist Alexandru Sift captured a photo of what's said to be a disc-shaped UFO. Since then, UFOs, apparitions, abnor-



Adrian Patrut, a university chemistry professor, is president of the Romanian Society of Parapsychology. He's been studying occurrences in Transylvania's Hoia-Baciu Forest since the 1970s.

## Word Travels

- Catch Word Travels, a documentary series that follows the real-life adventures of travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on OLN.

malities on photos, nocturnal lights and other unusual things have been regularly reported in the area.

Dr. Adrian Patrut, a chemistry professor at the local university, claims that

though there are many places around the world with unexplained phenomena, the "Hoia-Baciu Forest is one of the best due to the intensity, variety and complexity of its manifestations."

Patrut is president of the Romanian Society of Parapsychology and since the early '70s he has been studying occurrences in the forest such as unexplained splotches of light and luminous orbs hovering in

the sky. He says that when you spend too much time in the HBF, you can experience symptoms such as anxiety, insomnia, excessive thirst, nausea, vomiting and headaches.

With that kind of build-up, I had to check out the forest for myself. A 20-minute drive outside of the city finds us on the fringes of the forest.

We climb up a steep grassy plain to get to the tree line. Once there, we get out our ghost hunting tools: A compass, a still camera, a video camera with infra-red sensors and a Geiger counter to measure sudden rises in radiation. Then Patrut and I head into the forest.

The scene does look like something out of a Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Spiky branches reach out like bony fingers; trees are gnarled and spooky.

Patrut claims that these trees were normal a few years ago. Now they are warped, "A clear sign of an apparition." Supernatural or not, there's something truly creepy about prowling an abandoned forest at night. A few hours of hunt-

ing left us with a bunch of mosquito bites but, sadly, no orbs or UFO sightings.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 9:30 p.m. EST on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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# Metro Drive

## Maybach's new metal

Maybach has announced its Zeppelin will premiere at the Geneva Motor Show, Canadian Driver reports. It is a successor to the Maybach Zeppelin that was considered the ultimate in high-class automotive engineering in the 1930s. The flagship Zeppelin will feature a unique paint finish, meticulously crafted interior materials, and several new options including a perfume atomizer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

## Hot, hot Equator

Suzuki's light truck entry heavy with features

JIM KERR  
for Metro Canada



**There's a new player in the light truck market. Suzuki has expanded their lineup, not only adding compact cars and mid size SUV's, but now also have a mid-size truck in their portfolio. They call it the Equator.**

Suzuki has built trucks before. Their first truck was the Suzulight Carry in 1961. We didn't see it here. Compared to other manufacturers, Suzuki is a relative newcomer to Canada, with Suzuki Canada Inc., founded in 1979 by parent company Suzuki Motor Corporation.

To build a truck for North America, Suzuki has partnered with Nissan and will utilize Nissan's next generation Frontier platform for their first venture into the mid-size truck market.

According to Seiichi

### 2009 Suzuki Equator

**Type:** 4WD mid-size pickup truck  
**Price:** from \$33,795  
**Engine:** 4.0 litre DOHC V6  
**HP:** 261 at 5600 rpm  
**Torque:** 281 lb.ft. at 4000 rpm

#### Highlights

- Stability control
- Spray-on bed liner
- Rear window defroster
- Air conditioning

Maruyama, president of Suzuki Canada, "Pickup buyers in Canada are a particularly good fit for Suzuki since, statistically speaking, they're more likely to participate in lifestyle-oriented activities."

While U.S. buyers get the option of extended cab or crew cab, four cylinder or V6, manual or automatic transmission, the Equator in Canada is only available with the more versatile



The 2009 Suzuki Equator is perfectly suited for Canadian outdoor and off-roading lifestyle, says Seiichi Maruyama, president of Suzuki Canada.

**Capable of hauling passengers and cargo, towing a trailer or just playing around in the countryside, the Equator looks ready to go.**

and popular crew cab configuration with V6 and automatic transmission. With 261 horsepower, the 4.0 litre V6 engine with a five speed automatic transmission provides ample power. Fuel economy is rated at 14.4 L/100 km in the city and 10.4 L/100 km on the highway, which is excellent for a vehicle with 281 ft lbs of torque and a towing capacity of 2767 kg. For some serious off-road

adventures, shift the standard two-speed transfer case into low range and let that four wheel drive system do the work. Stability control, traction control and ABS will help the driver both on and off road.

Inside, the Equator offers air conditioning, power windows and locks, keyless entry, cruise control, tilt steering, 60/40 split folding rear seats with underseat storage and security net

over the storage area, rear window defroster and heated outside mirrors.

The interior looks attractive and access is very good, with the rear doors opening a full 90 degrees.

Mid-size trucks are gaining popularity for their fuel economy and economical pricing.

There are limited choices in the mid-size truck market and Suzuki may be introducing the right vehicle at the right time.

Capable of hauling passengers and cargo, towing a trailer or just playing around in the countryside, the Equator looks ready to go.

## 2010 Golf unveiled at show

**DEBUT** Volkswagen debuted the new 2010 Golf at the Canadian International Auto Show last week in Toronto.

The sixth generation compact hatchback was presented for the first time in North America in a five-door 2.0 litre TDI Diesel version.

One of the world's most popular vehicles ever, the Golf has sold over 26 million units since its introduction in Europe in 1974. Volkswagen also announced that nearly 400,000 Rabbits, Golfs, and GTIs have been sold in Canada since the introduction of the first generation in 1975.

The Golf's redesign team, headed by the Volkswagen Group's chief designer, Walter de Silva, with Klaus Bischoff and Flavio Manzoni, has succeeded in giving the Golf a presence, sharpness, and a power that generates even more fun.

All key body elements were redesigned, and the Golf has a sportier and more distinctive image.

In front, the new car adopts the radiator grille of the first generation Golf that is horizontally aligned between the headlights. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Boomers, you can always get what you want

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

Veteran auto journalist

Those baby boomers always get their way. They got all that free love in the swinging '60s,

jobs for life, real estate when it was cheap, and can actually get money out of the Canada Pension Plan. (Me bitter? No. I get to work until I'm 83. Why should I be bitter?)

And I don't know if you noticed, but the car market has also been at their beck and call.

The market gave them cheap imports for their single years, created minivans for their family years,

and concocted luxury SUVs so they would feel good about themselves in their peak earning years.

Now that they don't need minivans and SUVs, they're gravitating back to big, comfortable cars.

But get this — and this is so like them — they don't want their big comfortable cars to look like big comfortable cars, they want them to look sporty. When they're in these ve-

hicles, they want to roll the window down, blast the stereo, and let the wind ruffle their hair-replacement transplants.

Vehicles catering to this demographic can be roughly described as large coupes, or sedans that look like coupes, and they have been popping up for a few years now. Consider the Mercedes-Benz CLS Class, Jaguar XF, Infiniti G37 (coupe and sedan),

BMW 6 Series, Audi A5, Acura TL, and Pontiac G8.

A quick tour around the Toronto auto show this week revealed even more new models in this mode. Witness the Passat CC, the new Hyundai 2010 Genesis coupe and sedan, the new Cadillac CTS, the new Lincoln MKZ, and the new Nissan Maxima. (Not at the show, but very emblematic of the trend, is Porsche's new "four-door" — the

Panamera.)

But, I shouldn't be too hard on boomers. For one thing, I am one (at the tail end ... always the worse end). For another, this class of vehicle is an entirely good and cool thing.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



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**Birthday bash**

Kristy Swanson and Lloyd Eisler, who tied the knot this month, threw another party over the weekend — son Magnus' two-year-old birthday bash. Guests gathered Sunday in L.A. for cupcakes and entertainment by The Jumpitz. [PEOPLE.COM](#)

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# Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

**Location, location**

Cameron Diaz and British model Paul Sculfor are reportedly scouring the English countryside for the perfect place to tie the knot according to [femalefirst.co.uk](#).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Oscar's biggest blunders

PHIL BROWN  
for Metro Canada



**Like it or not the Oscars are coming on Sunday. The annual event might give Hollywood's biggest stars a chance to wear expensive clothing, but the awards should never be taken seriously as an accurate representation of the best films in any year.**

The Academy is a very political beast and the decisions are rarely made for artistic merit. With that in mind, we present a list of Oscar's biggest blunders to help you curb your expectations for Sunday's extravaganza.

**NO LOVE FOR HITCHCOCK OR KUBRICK:** Stanley Kubrick and Alfred Hitchcock are universally regarded as two of the finest directors of all time, but not according to the Academy. Neither auteur took home a best director statue during their illustrious careers. The only time they were honoured was when Hitchcock

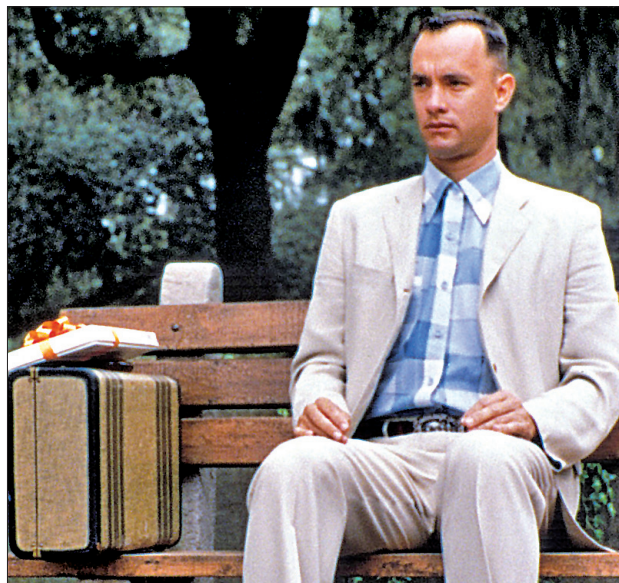


Alfred Hitchcock, left, is regarded as one of the finest directors of all time, but he never took home the Oscar for best director. Meanwhile, 1994 best picture winner *Forrest Gump*, right, is considered one of the worst representations of the mentally handicapped onscreen.

got an apologetic career achievement award and Kubrick picked up a special effects statue for 2001. Mel Gibson does have a best director Oscar though. Apparently he's way better than those guys.

**CITIZEN KANE IGNORED:** Orson Welles' masterful de-

but is routinely labelled "the greatest film ever made," but it got snubbed on Oscar night in 1941. The Academy decided to honour John Ford's forgettable *How Green Was My Valley* instead. Welles went on to become a legend, but was never even nominated for a little gold dude again.



**SCORSESE'S SNUB STREAK:** Martin Scorsese may have finally gotten an Oscar for *The Departed*, but it was only after all of his best work was ignored. Scorsese had to see *Taxi Driver* lose best picture to *Rocky* and lose best director to Robert Redford and Kevin Costner before he

finally got any recognition. The Academy is lucky that guy even showed up in 2007.

**ART CARNEY'S BEST ACTOR WIN:** Art Carney won the 1974 best actor statue for a movie in which he travelled the country with his cat. Now, that decision is

## The 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Academy Awards

offensive enough on its own, but it's even worse when you consider that he beat out Al Pacino for *The Godfather Part II*, Jack Nicholson for *Chinatown*, and Dustin Hoffman for *Lenny*. Those are three of the best actors of their generation giving three of their greatest performances. If he'd beaten even one of them it would have been a travesty. The fact that he beat them all is a tragedy.

**FORREST GUMP BEATS PULP FICTION:** In 1994 this decision seemed to make sense. Today, *Pulp Fiction* posters still fill dorm room walls and the only time *Forrest Gump* comes up is when the title is used as a punchline for a joke about the worst representation of the mentally handicapped onscreen. Smooth move Academy.

## Party planners say festivities have slowed ahead of big show

**Whether it's the recession, the age of Obama or the fact a hopeful movie is favoured to win best film at Sunday's Oscars, it's clear that change has come to Hollywood.**

Movie fans and critics have escaped the gloomy economy by seeking out Academy Award front-runner *Slumdog Millionaire*, a rags-to-riches romance

about a poor, young Indian man on an odds-defying quest on a television game show.

*Slumdog* follows two straight years of dark crime dramas — *No Country for Old Men* and *The Departed* — winning the world's top film honour, the Oscar, for best motion picture.

Party planners and caterers say plans for Oscar fes-

**"A lot of the glamour associated with the Oscars is still there but it's tempered by the economic times."**

Leeza Gibbons

tivities have slowed ahead of the Oscar show. Celebrity gift-getting suites are open for business but organizers say giving back seems to be more of a priority among the stars.

"Obama asked us for a day of service and we're asking for a night to make a difference," celebrity talk show hostess Leeza Gibbons said.

Gibbons and singer

Olivia Newton-John's are hosting an Oscar night benefit for Gibbons' Memory Foundation and Newton-John's Cancer and Wellness Centre. "A lot of the glamour associated with the Oscars is still there but it's tempered by the economic times," Gibbons said.

Vanity Fair, which once ruled the roost, will renew its annual gala but the af-

fair will be toned down compared to previous years.

Elton John and David Furnish are hosting their annual charity event but gone are last year's competing private affairs by pop stars Madonna and Prince. In their place, Hollywood's elite may be rolling over to a Mercedes-Benz-sponsored party.

REUTERS

# SOUL

## What's the Price of Fame?

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16entertainment

Designer flops history lesson

RAFAEL BRUSILOV  
for Metro Canada

Last night's Project Runway Canada episode proved that if you want to be a clothing designer, it pays to know the fashion world's history.

The designers were put in teams of three and asked to create a couture mini-collection inspired by the design spirit of an iconic fashion brand. The first two groups picked Valentino and Versace while Barrie, Ont. designer Brandon R. Dwyer's group chose Yves Saint Laurent, a French designer considered one of the 20th century's most influential figures in fashion for his gender-bending, innovative outfits.

when to watch

- Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. ET on Global.



Brandon R. Dwyer.

ry's most influential figures in fashion for his gender-bending, innovative outfits.

Dwyer, 23, quickly told his group he had no idea who Laurent was, starting a downward spiral that culminated in show host Iman telling Dwyer that his frilly shirt and deliberately mismatched pants "desecrated Mr. Saint Laurent."

Panel judge and Elle Canada editor-in-chief Rita

Silvan chose slightly more diplomatic words. "If you don't know much about Yves Saint Laurent, how can you be a fashion designer?" Silvan asked.

With that Dwyer was sent home and he still strongly believes the faux pas was the main reason he got cut. "I think not knowing YSL was a huge factor because Iman had a huge spaz when I mentioned it. I felt there were garments that were a lot weaker than mine," Dwyer said.

Since leaving the show, Dwyer has taken some time to read up on the legendary designer. "As soon as I got home I checked out all his collections. He's someone who made a huge impact in the fashion industry," Dwyer said.

Trying to design an outfit in the style of a designer he'd never heard of before was definitely challenging for Dwyer. "It was hard to concentrate on the actual garment, so that made the challenge really difficult," he said.

Now that Dwyer is off the show he'll focus on his eponymous clothing line — Brandon R Dwyer — and go back to making the types of clothes he likes design. "The stuff I did for the show is not necessarily anything I'd do in real life. My stuff is very avant-garde," Dwyer said.

critics' corner

**Corner Gas**  
"Mandelbaum! Mandelbaum!" Oops, sorry, that was "Seinfeld." But "Physical Credit" may put you in mind of the time an elderly fitness trainer went to work on Jerry. In this case, it's Oscar (Eric Peterson), who makes Davis (Lorne Cardinal) his fitness protege. Wanda (Nancy Robertson) is miffed when Hank (Fred Ewanick) is approved for a credit card she can't get. Brent and Lacey (Brent Butt, Gabrielle Miller) compete over a secret. 12:30 PM on COMEDY



**How Clean Is Your House?**  
Why clean the windows? That's what rain is for. That's the philosophy of Annie, the Scottish woman who gets Kim and Aggie's clean treatment in this episode. She hasn't cleaned her home since moving into it 10 years ago and sees no reason to. Kim and Aggie find a whole bunch of reasons in Annie's filthy oven. 10 PM on W

**The Exterminators**  
There's never a dull moment with the guys from Vexcon, and this week proves no different when Billy is called to a farm where a big gator has been threatening to eat the family's dogs. But just as Billy is about to save the day and catch the beast, the gator attacks and takes a bite out of him! Later, presumably healed, Ricky joins Billy at the genteel home of three generations of Louisiana ladies to rid the house of a massive swarm of wasps. 11:30 PM on A&E

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2/18/09	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wid News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Lost (HDTV)	Lost "316" (N)	Life on Mars	
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Lost (HDTV)	Lost "316" (N)	Law & Order		
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went	Being Erica (N) (DVS)	CBC News: The National	The Hour		
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Les Invincibles (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal		
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)	CSI: NY
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)	Dommmages et intérêts (SC)	TVA 22 heures	
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	(8:02) Life on Mars	Lie to Me "Love Always"	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)	News (N)		
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)	American Idol	Criminal Minds (N)	News (N)		
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)	Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two-Half Men	American Idol	Lie to Me "Love Always"	Fox First		
prime time	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)	Life "I Heart Mom" (N)	Law & Order	
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Business	Politics With Don Newman	CBC News: The National	Takeover	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Ask This Old	Monarchy: The Royal Family	American Masters (HDTV) (N)			
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	African American Lives 2	American Masters (HDTV) (N)			
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	450 chemin	Rire et délire	Wipeout (SC)	Bob Gratton	Bob Gratton	110 pour cent	
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live	Cooper 360			
	54	54	54	GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Tee It	19th Hole	Top 10 (HDTV)	Masters Highlights	Tiger's 1997
	52	52	52	RSE	Sportsnet Connected	World Combat League	The Ultimate Fighter				Best Damn Sports Show	Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	College Basketball Notre Dame at West Virginia. (Live)	Poker Million Pound Challenge.			Score Tonight	
news	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time (N)	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals. (HDTV) (Live)			SportsCentre	
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek
	44	44	44	TOON	Ben 10	Johnny Test	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Backyardigans	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Adrenaline Proj	Prank Patrol
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files	CSI: Miami "The Score"	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	70	70	70	APTN	News	Canadian Geographic	Reel Insights				APTN National News: Contact	Miywayawin
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)			You Got Served ** (2004, Drama)	Marques Houston.			Baldwin Hills
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal "Assault"	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera
family	25	25	25	CMT	Project Dad	Project Dad	CMT's Greatest Interviews"	Home Improve.	Reba		Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show
	153	153	153	COURT	Struggle for Justice	World's Wildest Police Videos	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Declassified			Police Videos
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)	Austin Stevens Adventures (N)	Deadliest Catch			Mayday
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential
	46	46	46	HIST	Museum Mysteries-World	NCIS "The Curse"	Cities of the Underworld			Museum Mysteries-World	NCIS	
	17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	Video on Trial	America's Best Dance Crew	Paris Hilton's My New BFF	T.I.'s Road to Redemption			Video on Trial
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	All-Time Top Ten (N)		Confessions
	201	201	201	M1	(6) Walker Payne		(8:15) Mistaken (2008, Suspense) Lana Parrilla.		Semi-Pro ** (2008, Comedy)			
	48	23	23	OLN	American Gladiators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman	Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Seinfeld
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1992, Suspense)				
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:30) Crime Spree		(8:10) Habitat ** (1997, Science Fiction), Alice Krige		The Shining *** (1980, Horror)			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes	Grands reportages (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)			RDI en direct
	39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap	The Outer Limits	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)			Big Love
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted "Angela J."	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Chop Shop (N)	Mr. Friday	Real Housewives of OC		Kimora: Fab
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	Lost "Homecoming"		Star Trek: Voyager			Rabbit Fall
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	UFC's Ultimate Fight Night			
	57	98	98	STAR	etalk	Hollywood	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)	TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		Tonight Show
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear	Untold Stories of the E.R.	My Shocking Story		Incredibly Small			Mystery Diag.
	56	34	34	TROP	What Happen?	What Happen?	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld		Family Guy
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Humanima	Mixeur	Cinéma à communiquer			Peur
	28	28	28	V	Side Effects	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	SOUL "Twice" (N)		Tuscany
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways	Judging Amy		Medium		Medium		Mediums
	22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	How Clean	How Clean
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two-Half Men	Family Guy	Privileged (HDTV)			Maxed Out (N)
												WGN News

In brief

**PEOPLE** Rap music mogul Marion (Suge) Knight was treated in the hospital for facial injuries after being injured in a fight at a local hotel, Scottsdale police said Monday.



Shortly after officers responded to a call, they saw a man punch Knight twice in the head, police said.

REUTERS

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](http://metronews.ca/movies)

### Timberlake and Biel moving to the city

Looks like Justin Timberlake and girlfriend Jessica Biel will be full-time residents of New York City soon. The pair, who were spotted apartment-hunting back in September, have reportedly settled on a lovely \$2.9-million US Chelsea duplex, according to Us Weekly. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# 'Celebrity' sightings and wine tastings



Brigitte Linder of Out The Box Chocolates shows off her wares at the Wine and Chocolate tasting event in support of the Canadian Paraplegic Association.



Dave Cormier and Heather Farmer at the Wine and Chocolate tasting event.



Gisela Folker and Callum MacQuarrie at the Wine and Chocolate tasting event.

**RIGHT:** Richard Wile performed at A Different Stage of Mind, a variety show and fundraiser for the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia.

## HalifaxScene

**Jamie Paterson**

### RED, WHITE AND BLUSH

I was off to Seasons Bistro and Wine Bar last weekend to sample the best wines from around the world. Better still, the wines were paired with samples of rich chocolate. More than a warm-up to Valentine's Day, the 4th annual Wine and Chocolate Tasting Event was a fundraiser for the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

Friday was A Different Stage of Mind, one of the most unique fundraisers of the year. Five of the top business executives in metro traded in the boardroom for the stage, cellphones for microphones and power suits for costumes to perform for the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia. The variety show format featured performances by "Garth Brooks," "Cher" and "Neil Young". I can't wait to see what celebrities hit the stage next year!



Sisters Joanne Courtney-Walker and Krista Courtney-Cox at Seasons Bistro and Wine Bar.



Trade Centre communications manager Fiona Kirkpatrick Parsons with husband Michael Parsons at A Different Stage of Mind.



"Bob Seger" fans Amanda Hamm and Dave Dobbeltsteyn at the A Different Stage of Mind variety show.



# BLING IT ON CONTEST

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Roseanne Barr has taken to her blog to comment on Chris Brown's alleged assault of girlfriend Rihanna, saying his "lies and excuses" sound "just like every sleazy bastard who ever smacked his wife, kid, mother or girlfriend." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Celebrity Buzz

# Madonna brainwashing my son: Model's mother

**PEOPLE** Not only is Madonna, 50, old enough to be boy-toy Jesus Luz's mother, she's old enough to be the 22-year-old's grandmother, wonderwall.com reports.

The New York Post reports that Luz already has a grandma, and she is around 50 years old, too. Meanwhile, Luz's mom, Cristiane Regina da Silva, a hairdresser in Brazil, is apparently 14 years younger than Madonna and believes the pop icon has kidnapped

and brainwashed her son. Luz's whole family (and trail of ex-girlfriends) back in



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Brazil are apparently upset he spent Christmas in the Maldives with Madge, and the Brazilian media are claiming that her PR people confiscated his cell-phone. Apparently the Luz clan, all devout Christians, are worried that Jesus will be lured into Kabbalah. He's already dropped the 40 Graus Modelos modeling agency back in his homeland to join Ford Models in New York, if that's any indication of his burgeoning commitment to Madonna, the website adds.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Leave Jessica alone: Jennifer

**PEOPLE** Jennifer Love Hewitt wishes people would stop debating Jessica Simpson's weight, usmagazine.com reports.

"I wish they would leave her alone," she said.

Her message to Simpson? "Ignore it, live your life and be happy."

Hewitt — who was famously mocked in 2007 when photos surfaced of her curvy figure in a bikini — told Us she is tired of the "unreasonable" Hollywood standards when it comes to weight.

"We're all supposed to look how we're supposed to look. We're made to be different people."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Lindsay talks Big Macs and weight rumours

**PEOPLE** Lindsay Lohan insists she loves Big Macs, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress has sparked concerns for her health after being pictured with an increasingly skinny frame, but has blamed her slim physique on her hectic work schedule.

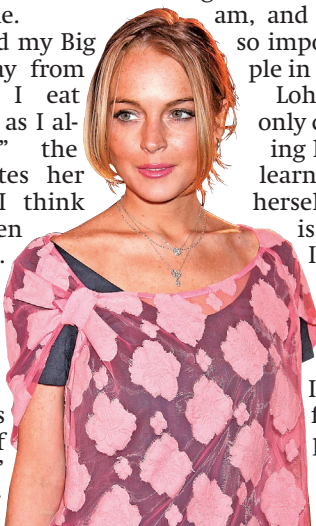
"I eat. I had my Big Mac yesterday from McDonald's. I eat just as much as I always have," the website quotes her as saying. "I think I've just been working a lot. It's just down to stress and lack of sleep when I travel. I think it's all that stuff that adds up." The 22-

year-old star won't listen to criticism about her weight, adding she doesn't want to be pressured into looking a certain way.

"I'm my own person, and people can say whatever they want. I'm still going to be the person that I am, and I think that's so important for people in Hollywood."

Lohan added she only cares about being happy and has learned to accept herself the way she is: "I think that I don't ever want to pretend to be something that I'm not. I'm not perfect, nobody is perfect."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## No romance, Katy says

**RUMOUR** Katy Perry has denied that she is seeing Benji Madden, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer sparked rumours she was dating the Good Charlotte rocker when they were spotted enjoying a cozy evening in Las Vegas on Valentine's Day, but she insists they are just friends.

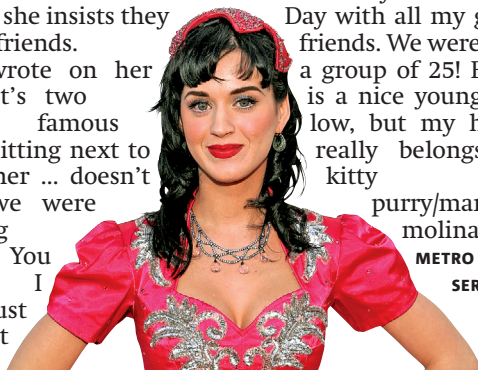
She wrote on her blog: "It's two pseudo famous people sitting next to each other ... doesn't mean we were bumping uglies. You know I don't just do that

with anyone."

The 24-year-old singer explained she was celebrating the romantic day with a group of friends.

Admitting she only has time for her pet cat, she wrote: "I was there celebrating a really fun show and a boozy Valentine's Day with all my good friends. We were like a group of 25! Benji is a nice young fellow, but my heart really belongs to kitty purry/markus molinari."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Jen and John's V-Day trip

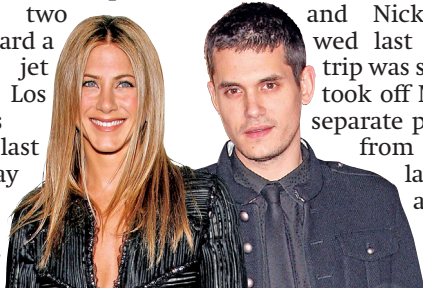
**RELATIONSHIP** Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer celebrated Valentine's Day with a trip to the Bahamas, usmagazine.com reports. The vacation was a present from Mayer, x17online.com reports.

The two left aboard a private jet from Los Angeles late last Thursday night — a day af-

ter Aniston's 40th birthday — and arrived on the island of Eleuthera the next morning, according to x17.

They stayed in a gated, luxurious home on the north of the island — where Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon wed last year. The trip was short: Both took off Monday in separate private jets from the island's main airport.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

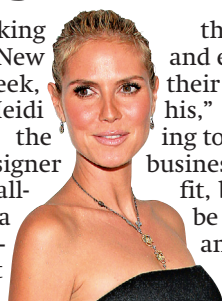


## Klum shrugs off 'fat' comment

**CRITICISM** While taking a break from New York Fashion Week, supermodel Heidi Klum addressed the hubbub over designer Wolfgang Joop calling her fat. "It's a life where every-

one can say what they want to say and everyone can have their opinion — that is his," she said, according to In Touch. "In this business you have to be fit, but I always try to be a good role model and not too thin."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Motherhood a time-thief: Julia

**FAMILY** As a full-time stay-at-home mom for the past year, Julia Roberts says life outside the Hollywood spotlight has been anything but uneventful — thanks to her three kids with husband Danny Moder, people.com reports.

"Danny and I talk about, 'What did we do with all the time we must have had?'" she tells Allure in its March issue. "Because you don't recognize it as such, until you have all these little ...

time thieves running around your house."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Josh and Fergie on honeymoon No. 2?

**MARRIAGE** Less than one month after their tropical getaway to the Maldives, Josh Duhamel and Fergie jettied off to the Mayan Riviera in Mexico for another romantic vacation last weekend, this time to attend the wedding of a friend, people.com reports.

As if on a second honeymoon, a source said the couple enjoyed "lots of outdoor activities, including sunbathing, snorkling, visiting the lowland rainforest and several historic Maya sites."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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**KIMORA**  
LIFE IN THE FAB LANE

Tonight 11



MY VICE IS SLICE

keeping up  
with the  
**Kardashians**

Tonight 11:30

Eastlink 40 | Bell TV 601 | Star Choice 562

slice.ca

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Take Five

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

### Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		9		8			5	
							9	
5	1	2	6	7				4
4		8	3			2		
				2				
		3			6	1		7
9				5	7	3	4	6
		5						
	2			3		5		

### Crossword across

- 1 Lawyers' org.  
4 Bob or Elizabeth  
8 Lather  
12 Pistol  
13 "Metamorphoses" poet  
14 Contemporary coin  
15 "Guinness Book" suffix  
16 Quarantine facility  
18 Filch  
20 Unruly group  
21 Apprehends  
24 Redden  
28 Jesus' home  
32 Birthright barterer  
33 "— Got a Secret"  
34 Knapsack part
- 36 Prior night  
37 Collections  
39 Risked  
41 Baghdad resident  
43 Make (one's way)  
44 Multi-purpose truck  
46 Refuge  
50 Mideast region  
55 Sapporo sash  
56 Culture medium  
57 — and void  
58 Suitable  
59 Info  
60 With skill  
61 Fool

### Crossword down

- 1 Forever, it seems  
2 Bankrupt  
3 Initial stake  
4 Moolah  
5 Eggs  
6 Claiborne of fashion  
7 Dutch cheese  
8 Weak  
9 No longer chic  
10 Illustrations  
11 Cattle call  
17 Lowe or Morrow  
19 Santa —, Calif.
- 22 "Little Women" woman  
23 Milkshake insert  
25 Secondhand  
26 Rescue  
27 Coloured  
28 Unless (Latin)  
29 State with certainty  
30 Catherine — Jones  
31 Visibility  
hindrance  
35 Magnificent array  
38 Uncool
- 40 Vitamin amt.  
42 "— Impossible"  
45 Italian volcano  
47 Parlor piece  
48 Wading bird  
49 Perches  
50 Wander about  
51 Past  
52 Use a ray-gun  
53 Massage  
54 Under the weather

### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

G A F F S T A B G O D O L I O A R I A I R E T A X R E T U R N L E E K N E E T U T O R S I R E D E A S E H O E D F A X M O D E M E W E F A R I S G P A M A X E R N S T B E E N A L E S O L D E N G I M M E A O N E A N I W A X P O E T I C T O N A R E A P A P A E N E Y E L L S P O T	5 9 7 8 3 6 1 2 4 6 3 2 1 4 9 5 8 7 8 4 1 2 5 7 6 3 9 7 8 6 5 2 1 9 4 3 2 1 3 9 6 4 7 5 8 4 5 9 7 8 3 2 6 1 3 7 4 6 1 2 8 9 5 1 6 8 3 9 5 4 7 2 9 2 5 4 7 8 3 1 6
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### Find today's answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

<b>SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:</b>	17-21 min .....Smart
Under 13 min .....Genius	21-25 min .....Not bad
13-17 min .....Scholar	25+ min .....Keep practising

### Metro Recipe of the Day



### Fusilli and Meatballs

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 large onion, chopped
  - 2 garlic cloves, minced
  - 796-ml can no-salt-added Italian tomatoes
  - 796-ml can no-salt-added whole tomatoes in purée
  - 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh basil
  - 1 tbsp (15 ml) fresh oregano or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
  - 2 slices firm-textured white bread
  - 1 lb (500 g) lean (93%) ground beef
  - 1 large egg
  - 2 tbsp (25 ml) reduced-fat milk (2%)
  - 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
  - 1/2 tsp (2 ml) black pepper
  - 12 oz (375 g) long fusilli

- METHOD:**
- Coat large pot with non-stick cooking spray and set over medium-high heat. Sauté onion and garlic until soft, about 5 minutes. Transfer 2 tbsp (25 ml) onion mixture to large bowl.
  - Process Italian and whole tomatoes in food processor until fairly smooth. Add to pot. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Reader's Digest

U.S. President Obama

Key Ingredients

### Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

- ARIES**  
**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**

Someone with a hidden agenda speaks of the future. Don't let your hot-headedness go beyond good taste. A wonderful transformation is coming.
- LIBRA**  
**SEPT 23-OCT 23**

Encourage a meddler to be more sincere. A private fantasy will become more exhilarating. An interesting man takes pleasure in your company.
- TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**

Don't let pride stand in the way of understanding. Difficulties that flare can be resolved with care. Maintain a flexible attitude in groups.
- SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**

Someone's laziness will enrage a female. Teach others to face trouble as it comes up. Someone will love you when they know you better.
- GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**

Concentrate on a business that has good chances. Don't take on any risks. Before leaving a difficult situation, take stock of the benefits.
- SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**

Find time to have fun with the people you love. A chat will clear the air. An untrustworthy person is acting on your behalf.
- CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**

A friend leaves an unhappy marriage. Profits gained through unethical dealings melt away. A nitpicker learns from other people's heated reactions.
- CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**

A woman wants more kindness than you can give. Express your feelings with passion. A surprising shift will take place within your family.
- LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**

Stash your belongings in safe place. You'll be frustrated when you're forced to confront a noisy bore. Show compassion before casting blame.
- AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**

A friendship develops for very complicated reasons. Hints of your future power in a relationship will come. Someone returns early from a trip.
- VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**

While seeking information, you'll have to give directions. Pretending that you don't care won't work. You'll avoid the mess of impulsive deeds.
- PISCES**  
**FEB 19-MARCH 20**

Someone's honour will please you. A disappointment affects your chance to succeed. A dramatic spat shouldn't be allowed to get worse.

**FLIGHT CENTRE** *Unbeatable*

**ORLANDO FAMILY HOLIDAY**

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**WORDY GURDY**

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Flattens Henry Higgins player Harrison (1)

2. Hide away a pane holder or an obi (1)

3. Monetarily punish designer Calvin (1)

4. Above a patch of shamrocks (2)

5. Singer Beyoncé tosses the dice (1)

6. One who weds a cross-country runner (3)

7. Approaching an opening in the woods (2)

ANSWERS

1. RECKERS 2. STASH SASH 3. FINE KLEIN 4. OVER CLOVER 5. KNOWLES BOLTS 6. HARRIER MARRIER 7. NEARING CLEARING

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